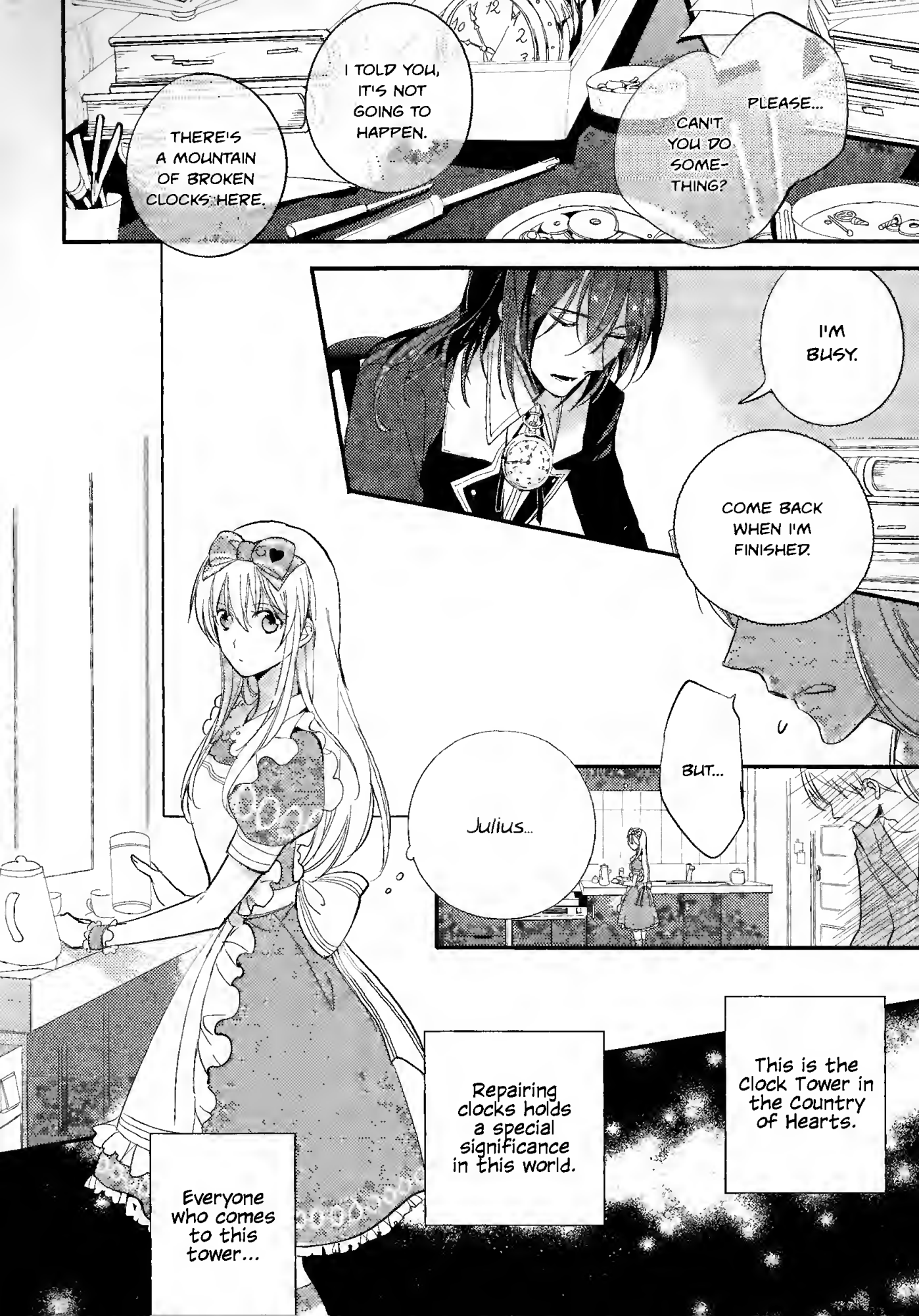
恋と嵐と花時計

ハートの国のアリス

～ Wonderful Twin World ～

I REFUSE.


PLEASE... CAN'T YOU DO SOME-THING?
I TOLD YOU, IT'S NOT GOING TO HAPPEN.
THERE'S A MOUNTAIN OF BROKEN CLOCKS HERE.
I'M BUSY.
COME BACK WHEN I'M FINISHED.
BUT...
Julius...
This is the Clock Tower in the Country of Hearts.
Repairing clocks holds a special significance in this world.
Everyone who comes to this tower...

PLEASE!
Is in a serious situation.
WHILE WE WERE OUT...
OUR DAUGHTER FORGOT TO TURN OFF THE OVEN AND A FIRE STARTED.
SHE INHALED THE SMOKE AND COULDN'T GET AWAY.
SHE DIED.
IT WAS BADLY BURNED WHEN THE FIRE ENGULFED IT.
THIS IS OUR DAUGHTER'S CLOCK.
カチ
DEAR...
AH.

OUR DAUGHTER LOVED CLOTHES, HAIR ACCESSORIES, AND SHOES.
SHE HAD A COLLECTION OF HER FAVORITES,
AND ALWAYS ENJOYED DRESSING HERSELF UP.
I CAN'T BEAR SEEING HER LIKE THIS...
EVEN IF IT ONLY RETAINS A FRACTION OF ITS BEAUTY, PLEASE REPAIR HER CLOCK.

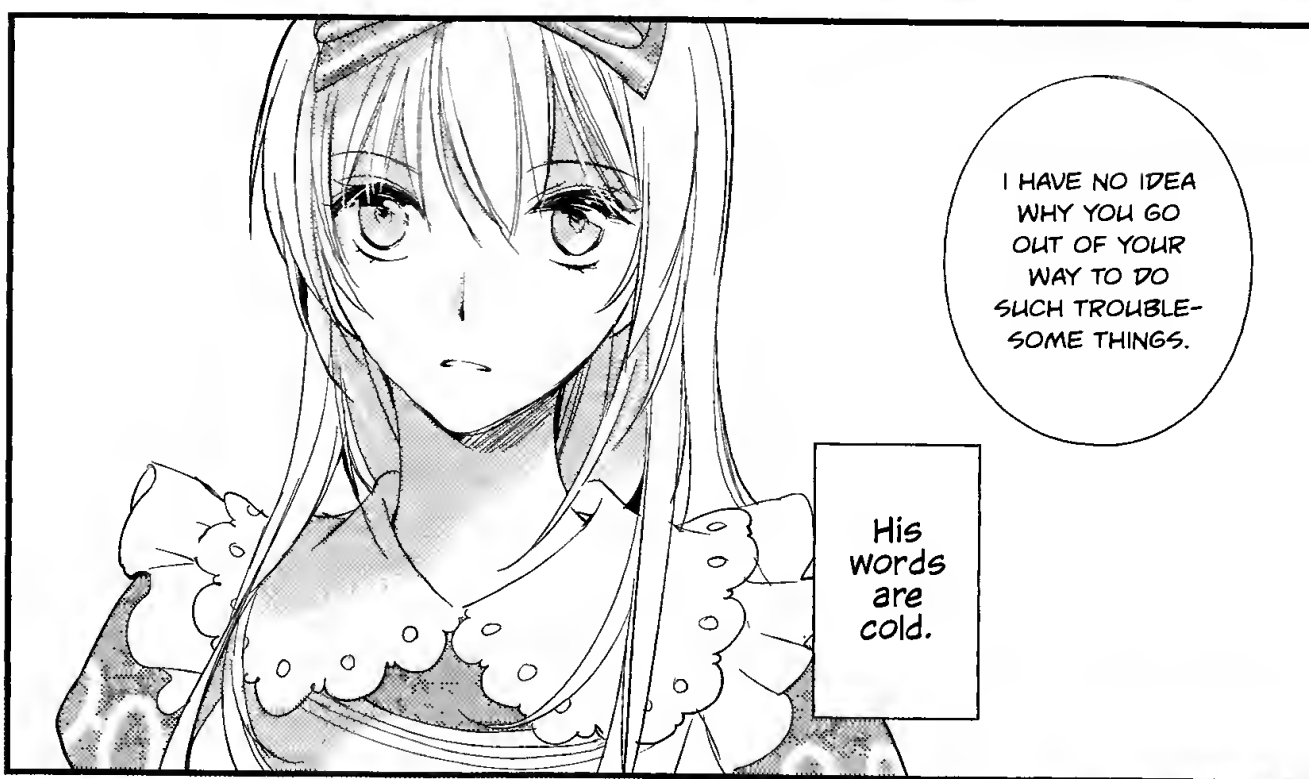
In this world clocks are life.
I WILL NOT GIVE YOU ANY SPECIAL TREATMENT.
THE APPEARANCE OF THE CLOCK HAS NO RELATION TO THE APPEARANCE OF THE PERSON.
BURNED OR NOT, RESTORING ITS FUNCTIONALITY AS A CLOCK WILL BE SUFFICIENT.
I UNDERSTAND IT WAS NOT EASY TO COME ALL THIS WAY,
BUT PLEASE DO NOT INTERRUPT MY WORK ANY FURTHER.
Mourning a broken clock doesn't make people like this.
They're so desperate
Because they loved their daughter.

UM...
EXCUSE ME, BUT I OVERHEARD YOUR CONVERSATION EARLIER.
I'M AN ASSISTANT HERE... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
PLEASE, HAVE SOME TEA.
YOU ARE...?
ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTER'S CLOCK.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN REMOVE THE BURN MARKS...
BUT I CAN POLISH IT.
I'LL PUT MY HEART INTO IT.
I'LL DO AS MUCH AS I CAN UNTIL THE DAY IT'S REPAIRED.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
GOOD-NESS.

AH.
BUT DIDN'T THAT COUPLE SEEM HAPPY?
IT'S STILL POINTLESS.
YOU VOLUNTEER TO DO THE MOST POINTLESS THINGS.

POLISHING IT ISN'T GOING TO CHANGE ANYTHING.
A CLOCK IS A CLOCK. THE EXTERIOR CAN BE BURNED OR RUSTED.
AS LONG AS IT CAN MOVE, IT'S FINE.



He's been scolding me ever since I arrived in the Country of Hearts.

But...

BUT...
THAT
IS JUST LIKE YOU.
Yet
Now...

Julius isn't great with words.
He can't give her clock special treatment
Because
He wants every clock's repair to be special.
I know that now.
Even when guests arrive, he doesn't have time to stop.
He always has a clock to repair.
Julius never stops working.
IF YOU HAD EXPLAINED PROPERLY, THAT COUPLE MIGHT HAVE UNDERSTOOD, YOU KNOW?
But underneath his curt and clumsy attitude,
He is kind and sincere.
WELL, IT'S OKAY.
YOUR INTENTION WAS GOOD, AT LEAST.

YOU SHOULD BE THE ONE TO GREET OUR GUESTS FROM NOW ON.
HOSPIT-ALITY ISN'T MY FORTE.
AND...
YOU UNDERSTAND ME BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
THAT'S NO FAIR, JULIUS.
YOU SHOULD FACE ME WHEN YOU SAY SOMETHING SO SERIOUS.

Just before the kiss
Julius had a slightly embarrassed expression.
An expression only I know.
CLOSE YOUR EYES.

I'M GOING TO GET BACK TO WORK.
...THE BOOKS FELL.
AT LEAST THE CLOCKS ARE OKAY.
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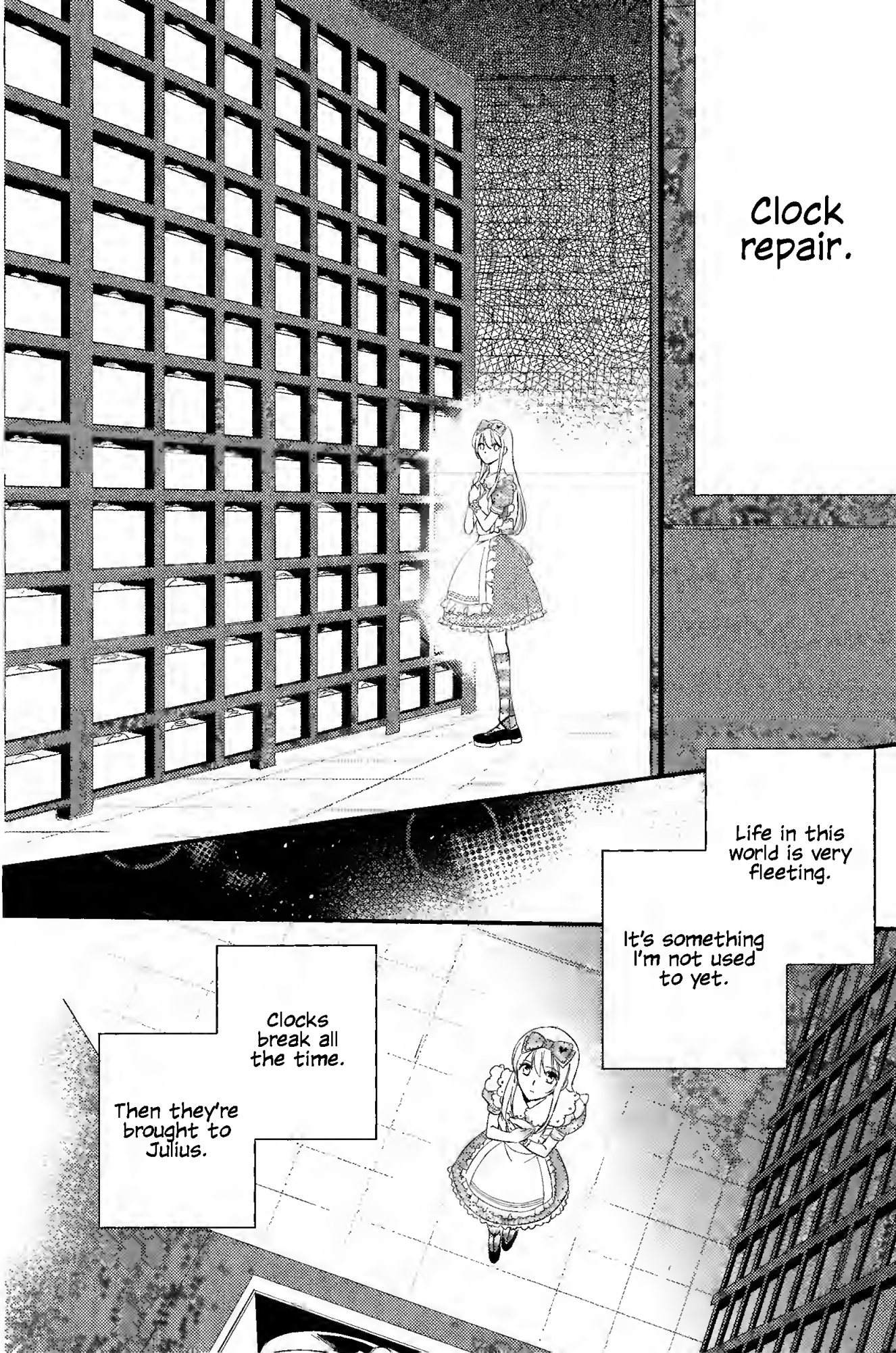
TAKE GOOD CARE OF THE CLOCKS.
WORK... HUH.
He's been busy since I first met him.
Julius's work is important.
He controls "life" in this world.


Clock repair.
Life in this world is very fleeting.
It's something I'm not used to yet.
Clocks break all the time.
Then they're brought to Julius.

Because of that, his work
Never ends.
I'M GOING TO GET BACK TO WORK.
It began on a clear Sunday afternoon.
.....
I know he's busy,
But we could at least act a little bit like a couple...

Suddenly, a white rabbit appeared
And dragged me to Wonder-land.
When I came to, I had fallen onto the roof of a clock tower.
OUCH...
WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT...
QUIET DOWN.
DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS ON SOMEONE ELSE'S PRO-PERTY.
The owner of the Clock Tower was Julius.
My first impre-ssion of him
YOU'RE IN THE WAY. HURRY UP AND GET OUT OF HERE.
Was awful.

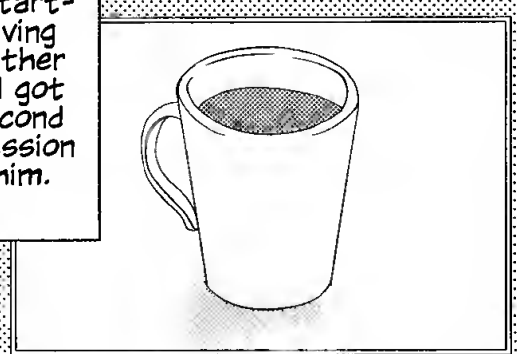
A lot of things happened, and I decided to live in the Clock Tower.

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EAT.

THEN I'LL MAKE YOU SOME COFFEE.

He took me in, so I need to work too

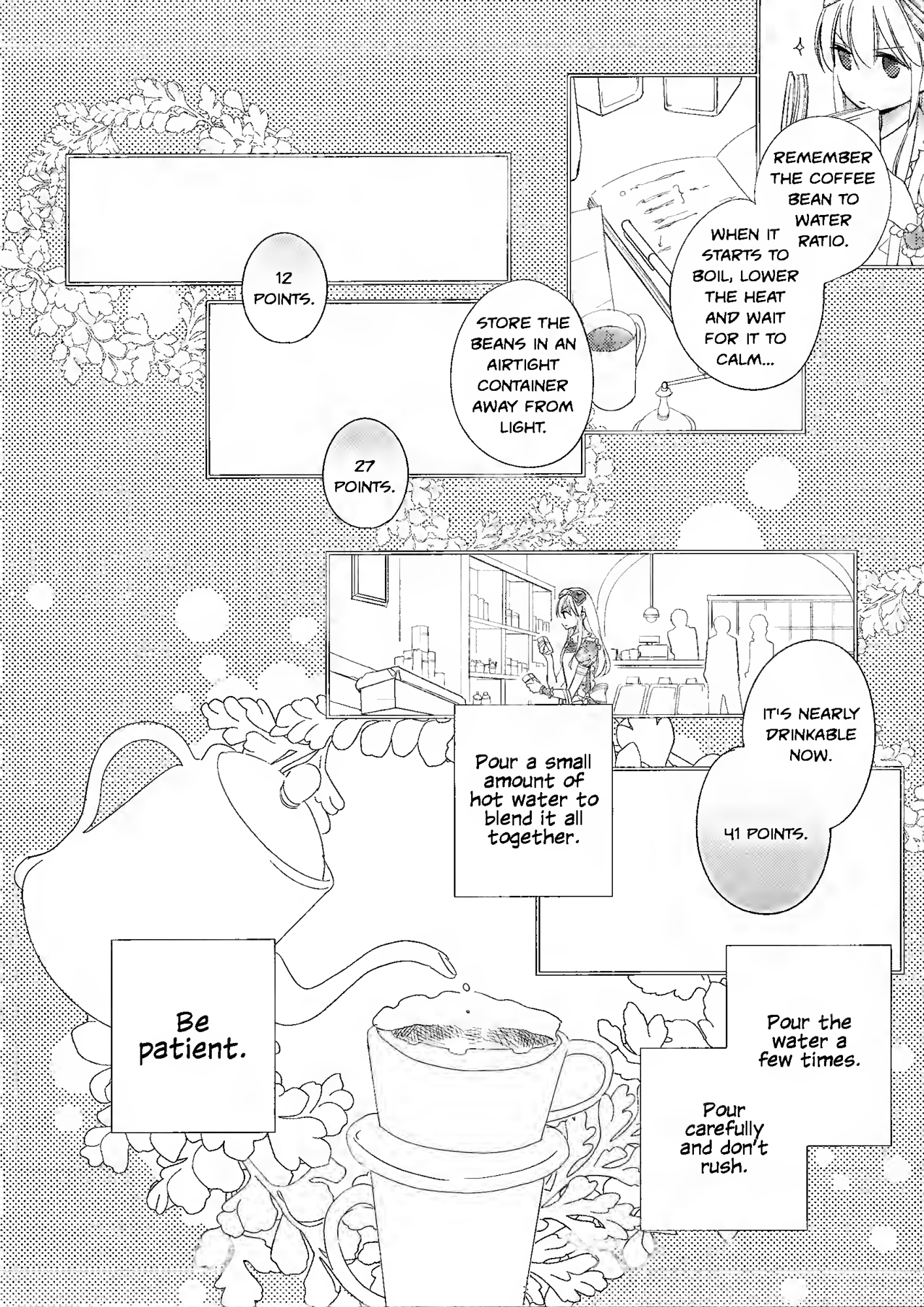
We started living together and I got a second impression of him.



...THREE POINTS.

IT'S BARELY BETTER THAN A CUP OF MUDDY WATER.

Still awful.


REMEMBER THE COFFEE BEAN TO WATER RATIO.
WHEN IT STARTS TO BOIL, LOWER THE HEAT AND WAIT FOR IT TO CALM...
12 POINTS.
STORE THE BEANS IN AN AIRTIGHT CONTAINER AWAY FROM LIGHT.
27 POINTS.
IT'S NEARLY DRINKABLE NOW.
41 POINTS.
Pour a small amount of hot water to blend it all together.
Be patient.
Pour the water a few times.
Pour carefully and don't rush.

Test the ingredients.
Do the research.
This is it.
He won't say it's bad this time!
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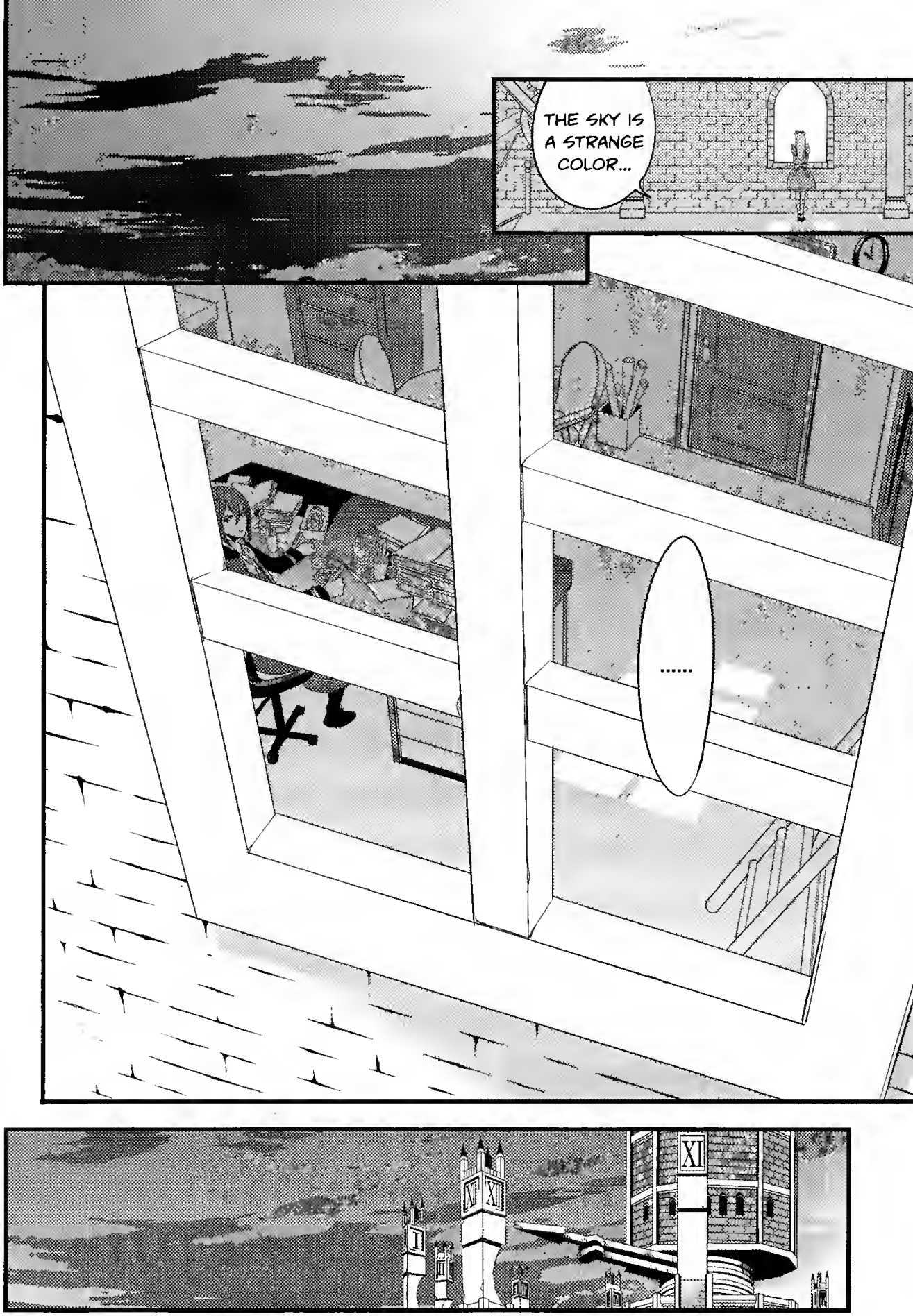
HEY.
WHA-
WHAT!?

IT NEEDS SUGAR. NO MILK.
I guess we could go get sugar together.
Little by little...
WHENEVER IT SEEMS LIKE A GOOD TIME, YOU CAN MAKE ME SOME MORE.
The distance between Julius and I closed.
I know Julius's role
In keeping this world functioning.
He may be cold, but I know underneath that attitude
Is something warm.
Self-control.
Responsibility.

Loneli-
ness.
I didn't think it would happen again.
I fell in love.
I can't believe that antisocial workaholic is my partner.
I don't get him at all.
...HUH.


THE SKY IS A STRANGE COLOR...
.....
XI
XI
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YOU SHOULD FIND A PLACE TO STOP AND GET SOME REST TOO.
YEAH.
WELL THEN, I'M GOING TO BED FIRST.
...
THIS SPRING IS FALLING APART.
I'LL HAVE TO REPLACE THE ENTIRE THING.
I SWEAR, NOBODY TAKES CARE OF THEIR CLOCK.

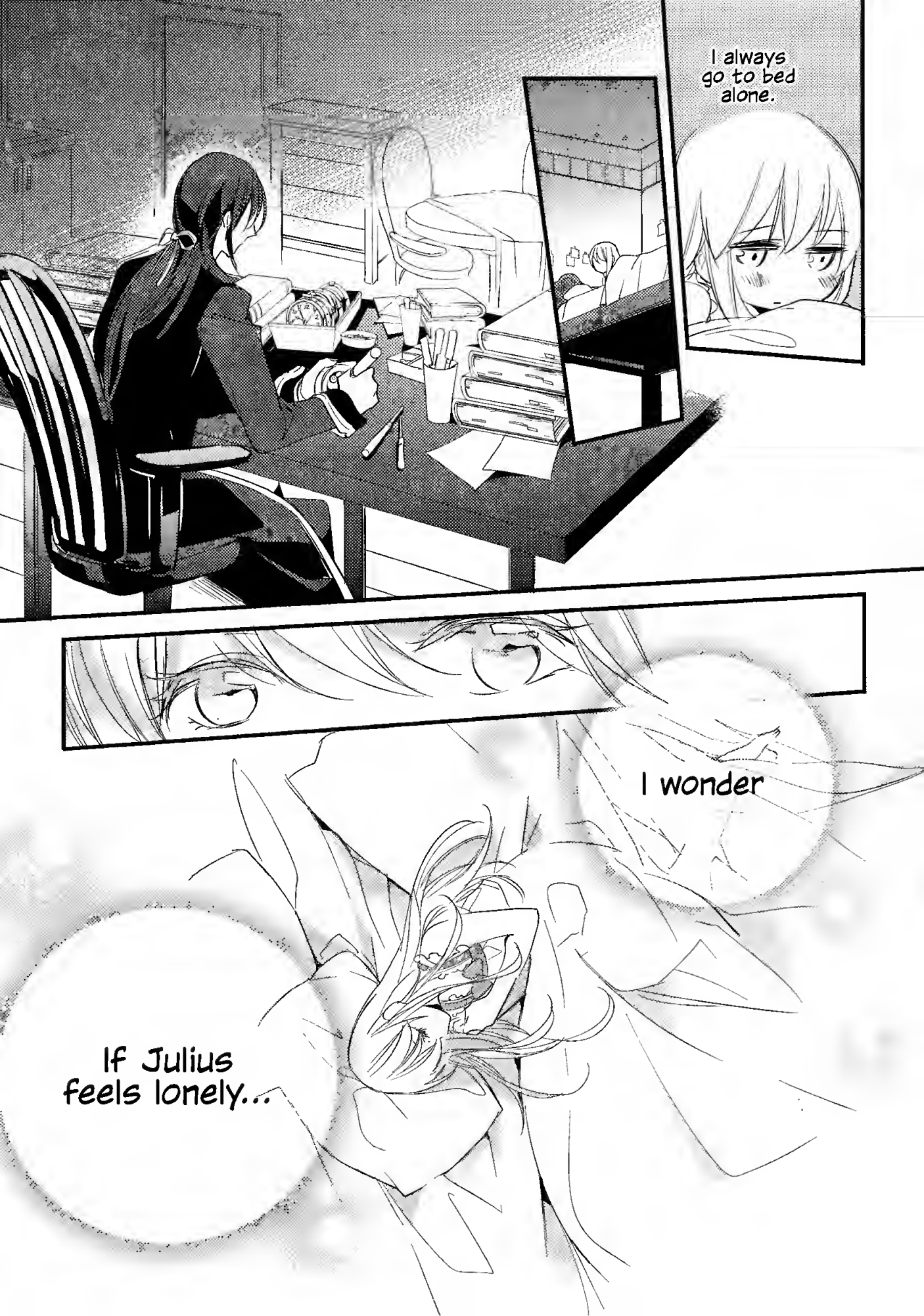
GOOD GRIEF.
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
もじっ
WELL, JULIUS...
IF IT'S OKAY WITH YOU...
WHAT I WANT...
WHAT?
AH...

I'M BUSY.
OUT WITH IT.
SORRY. IT'S NOTHING.
THAT SO?
I KNOW YOUR WORK IS IMPORTANT, BUT DON'T FORCE YOURSELF.
GOOD-NIGHT.

I saw a lovely cafe in the town.
I wish Julius would take me there some-time...
Just the two of us...
He always seems so busy.
Julius doesn't like people or going outside.
Yeah...
No way he'd go to a cafe.
Even if he finished his work,
There's no way that would happen.
...

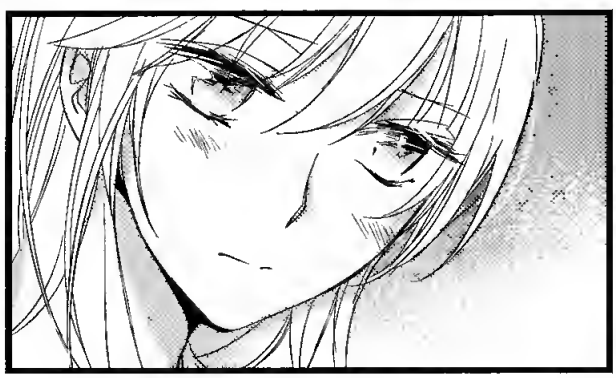
I'm glad.
My honey latte isn't bad either.
Hey Julius,
This royal milk tea smells really good.
Would you like a cookie?
I'll feed it to you. Open your mouth.
.....
SHE STILL ISN'T ASLEEP...
Like that would ever happen!
I'm not being realistic!
An ordinary date.
Normal is fine.
I shouldn't think about such dreamy things.

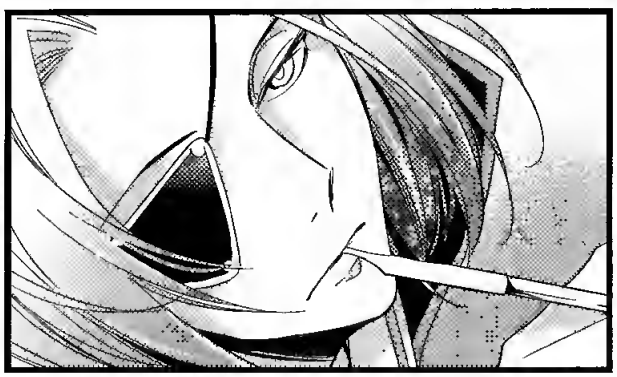
I don't want to get in the way of his work.
But
Until a little while ago, we couldn't even kiss.
I don't want to force my selfish desires on him.
We're a couple.

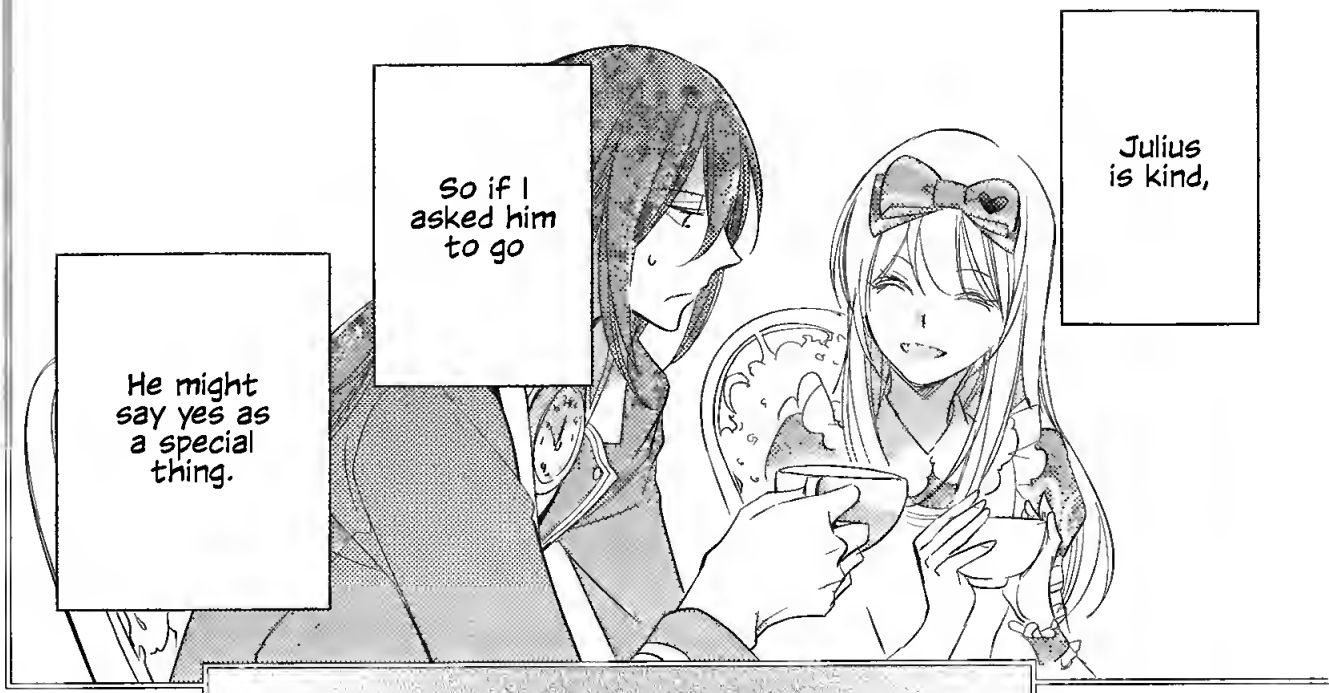

I always go to bed alone.
I wonder
If Julius feels lonely...

YOUR DESIRES ARE UNFULFILLED.
THAT MEANS COUGHING UP BLOOD IS NORMAL FOR YOU.
HO... HOLD ON!
THAT LOGIC ISN'T RIGHT!
THAT HURTS, ALICE!
THAT'S THE FIRST THING YOU SAY WHEN YOU INVADE SOMEONE'S DREAMS!?
I'M SICK, YOU KNOW! BE GENTLE WITH ME!

I don't know about that,
But...
.....
BUT...
I DON'T WANT TO TROUBLE HIM.
HE'S A INSENSITIIVE, ECCENTRIC MAN,
BUT YOU'VE BEEN LIVING WITH HIM, SO YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR HIM TO BE A BIT OF A HASSLE.
IF YOU WANT SOMETHING, SHOULDN'T YOU TALK TO THE CLOCKMAKER DIRECTLY?
I DON'T GET IT.







But then what?

That special thing would become the usual.

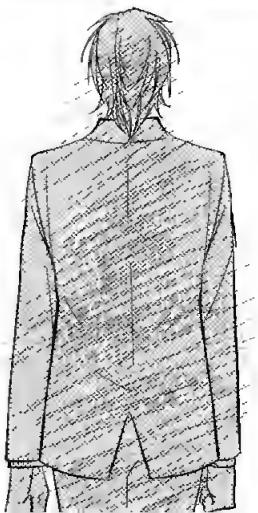
And if you don't think about your partner's feelings

But two? Three?

One time might be okay,

Eventually,

Their heart



Will drift away.

DON'T GO BACK
HMPH.
THAT'S A COWARDLY WAY OF THINKING FOR SOMEONE AS HEAVY-HANDED AS YOU..
YOUR LOVE MUST BE SOMETHING ELSE IF YOU'RE THINKING THAT HARD ABOUT IT.
No...
I'm just selfish.
I'm doing this for myself.
I don't want to lose his heart.
.....
ANYWAYS GIVE YOUR COMPLAINTS TO THE CLOCKMAKER!
THE THING I TOLD YOU ABOUT IS COMING.
HEY!
KNOCK IT OFF!
YOU JUST READ MINDS AND SAY WHATEVER IS CONVENIENT! I'M BEING SAD RIGHT NOW! DID YOU COME TO LAUGH AT ME!?
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SHUT UP YOU STUPID NIGHTMARE!

THE STORM IS COMING.